

ROALD DAHL
**Mrs. BIXBY
 AND THE
 COLONEL'S COAT**



Complete the gapped text with the mixed words that follow.

accuse; horror; neck; dentist; fabulous; claiming; assistant, lover; worthless; surprised; valuable; duplicitous; gift; eager; claim; pawnbroker; end; aunt; taxicab; scheming

The story "Mrs Bixby and the Colonel's Coat" is about a hard-working _____ and his _____ wife. Mrs Bixby leaves home once a month to visit her _____ in Baltimore, but really she spends her time with her _____, the Colonel. On this particular occasion she receives a parting _____ from the Colonel, and when she opens it on the train home she is amazed to find an extremely beautiful and _____ mink coat. In a note the Colonel explains that their relationship has to _____, but Mrs Bixby is consoled by the thought of her _____ new possession. Immediately she begins _____ and trying to think of a story she can tell her husband about where she obtained it.

She decides to visit a _____ and borrow \$50 against the coat, receiving a blank pawn ticket in return. When she gets home she tells her husband that she found the ticket in a _____ and he excitedly explains how they go about _____ it. Since she doesn't want to be recognized by the pawnbroker, she lets him go to _____ the item after he promises that he'll give whatever it is to her. He calls her from work the next day to let her know that he has the item, and that she's going to be really _____ and happy. Mrs Bixby is too _____ to wait, so she goes to her husband's office to pick up the coat. Imagine her _____, then, when her husband places a mangy mink stole around her _____. She feigns happiness for his sake, while secretly planning to return to the pawnbroker and _____ him of switching the coat for this _____ item. On her way out of the office, though, she is passed by her husband's young _____-secretary, Miss Pulteney, wearing the "beautiful black mink coat that the Colonel had given to Mrs Bixby."